

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L WELLINGTON 3968

FOR EA/ANP SQUIRE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OREP (RANDAL, WILLIAM J., HOLLINGS, ERNEST F.; GRIFFIN, ROBERT P)

SUBJECT: CODELS RANDAL AND HOLLINGS/GRIFFIN

1. FOLLOWING FOREIGN AFFAIRS/SECURITY APPRECIATION MAY BE USEFUL FOR CODELS' ORIENTATION PURPOSES. AS VISITS OF CODELS FORTUITOUSLY ARE COINCIDENT WITH CHANGE OF GOVERNMENT HERE THEY WILL PROVIDE EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY FOR OFFICIALS OF EACH COUNTRY TO OBTAIN INSIGHTS INTO RESPECTIVE PERCEPTIONS OF FOREIGN POLICY AND SECURITY ISSUES.

2. WE ARE FORTUNATE IN THAT THERE ARE NO MAJOR PROBLEMS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES. THE STRENGTH OF THE ANZUS LINK WAS REITERATED BY THE NATIONAL PARTY IN ITS ELECTION PLATFORM WHICH CALLED ANZUS "THE CORNERSTONE" OF NEW ZEALAND'S COLLECTIVE SECURITY POLICY. PM MULDOON HAS ERASED AN IMPORTANT IRRITANT IN OUR RELATIONS BY INDICATING HE CONSIDERED THE PROPOSAL FOR A SOUTH PACIFIC NUCLEAR WEAPONS FREE ZONE (SPNWFZ) INCONSISTENT WITH NEW ZEALAND'S ANZUS OBLIGATIONS. HIS GOVERNMENT IS ALSO REPORTED TO HAVE SAID THAT UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES NEW ZEALAND WOULD ACCEPT NUCLEAR POWERED WARSHIP VISITS IN FULFILLMENT OF TREATY OBLIGATIONS.

3. IN GENERAL, AND IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC PARTICULARLY,
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THERE IS A HIGH DEGREE OF SIMILARITY IN THE DIRECTION OF

U.S. AND NEW ZEALAND VIEWS AND POLICIES. NEW ZEALAND'S AID PROGRAM FOCUSES ON DEVELOPMENT IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC AND IN THE ASEAN COUNTRIES WITH WHICH NEW ZEALAND MAINTAINS CLOSE RELATIONS. NEW ZEALAND IS CONCERNED ABOUT STABILITY IN SOUTHEAST ASIA AND SEES ASEAN AS A USEFUL MEANS FOR PROMOTING DEVELOPMENT AND DAMPENING THE CAUSES OF INSTABILITY. ALSO, UNDER THE FIVE POWER DEFENSE ARRANGEMENTS (FPDA) NEW ZEALAND HAS MAINTAINED A BATTALION IN SINGAPORE. THE NEW GOVERNMENT HAS ANNOUNCED IT WILL KEEP THE BATTALION THERE AS LONG AS ITS PRESENCE IS WELCOME.

4. NEW ZEALAND IS INTERESTED IN THE TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS (TTPI) AND, HAVING GRANTED INDEPENDENCE OR SELF-GOVERNMENT TO ITS FOUR ISLAND TERRITORIES, WOULD WELCOME AN ACCELERATION OF SIMILAR U.S. EFFORTS IN THE WESTERN PACIFIC. AT THE SAME TIME, HOWEVER, THIS GOVERNMENT IS WELL AWARE OF AMERICAN SECURITY INTERESTS AND THE RELATIONSHIP OF THESE TO NEW ZEALAND'S OWN SECURITY. IN LIGHT OF THIS WE CAN EXPECT GENERAL UNDERSTANDING OF OUR SITUATION IN THE TTPI. THE SAME SHOULD BE TRUE OF U.S. POLICIES VIS-A-VIS THE INDIAN OCEAN. WHILE THE PREVIOUS GOVERNMENT RATIONALIZED ITS CHAMPIONSHIP OF A SPNWFZ IN PART BY DESCRIBING IT AS AN EFFORT TO KEEP THE SOUTH PACIFIC FROM BECOMING AN AREA OF MAJOR POWER RIVALRY LIKE THE INDIAN OCEAN, MULDOON'S SUPPORT FOR ANZUS AND LACK OF ENTHUSIASM FOR THE SPNWFZ ARE LIKELY TO BE REFLECTED IN A LOW PROFILE ATTITUDE REGARDING THE INDIAN OCEAN.

5. RELATIONS WITH AUSTRALIA ARE A SPECIAL CASE AS THAT COUNTRY IS NEW ZEALAND'S MAJOR TRADING PARTNER AND TRANS-TASMAN INFLUENCES ARE STRONG. HOWEVER, THERE IS AN ALMOST CLASSICAL "BIG COUNTRY-SMALL COUNTRY" RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND, WITH NEW ZEALANDERS CONSIDERING THEMSELVES SOMEWHAT SUPERIOR TO THEIR BRASH AND OUTSPOKEN ANTIPODIAN NEIGHBORS. A MORE PRACTICAL PROBLEM IN RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES WILL BE CONTINUED IMPLEMENTATION OF THE

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NEW ZEALAND-AUSTRALIA FREE TRADE AGREEMENT (NAFTA). ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES ARE RESULTING IN PROTECTIONIST PRESSURES IN BOTH COUNTRIES AND CARE WILL HAVE TO BE TAKEN TO FIND EQUITABLE AND ACCEPTABLE SOLUTIONS.

6. FACING A BILLION DOLLAR (NZ) A YEAR FOREIGN TRADE DEFICIT, THE NATIONAL PARTY GOVERNMENT WILL FOCUS A GREAT DEAL OF ATTENTION ON MAINTAINING ITS TRADING

POSITION IN ITS TRADITIONAL BRITISH AND NORTH
AMERICAN MARKETS WHILE EXPANDING SALES TO THE EEC,
JAP, THE MIDDLE EAST, LATIN AMERICA AND COMMUNIST
COUNTRIES. FOR THE U.S. IN PRACTICAL TERMS
THIS MEANS WE CAN EXPECT SOME EFFORTS TO RESTRAIN
AMERICAN EXPORTS TO NEW ZEALAND WHILE BEING ASKED TO
ACCEPT LARGER SHIPMENTS OF NEW ZEALAND AGRICULTURAL
(MAINLY MEAT) PRODUCTS. HOWEVER, BEING A PRICE-TAKER
AND NOT A PRICE-SETTER PUTS NEW ZEALAND IN AN
UNENVIABLE POSITION. IT IS UNLIKELY TO OVERCOME ITS
BALANCE OF PAYMENTS PROBLEMS UNLESS AND UNTIL
PRICES FOR PRIMARY AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS RISE ON THE
WORLD MARKET. NEW ZEALANDERS HAVE BEEN THROUGH
DIFFICULT TIMES BEFORE, HOWEVER, AND THEIR UNUSUAL
COMBINATION OF SELF RELIANCE AND WELFARE STATE
MECHANISMS SHOULD CARRY THESE WELCOME ALLIES IN THE
PACIFIC THROUGH THEIR PRESENT RECESSION, ALBEIT WITH
A LOWERED STANDARD OF LIVING THAN THEY HAVE ENJOYED
SINCE WORLD WAR II.
SELDEN

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